

# House File 607 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY TYMESON

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring a background investigation of certain teachers  
2 prior to issuance of an initial contract by a school district.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 1337YH 82  
5 kh/es/88

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1 1 Section 1. Section 279.13, subsection 1, Code 2007, is  
1 2 amended to read as follows:  
1 3 1. a. Contracts with teachers, which for the purpose of  
1 4 this section means all licensed employees of a school district  
1 5 and nurses employed by the board, excluding superintendents,  
1 6 assistant superintendents, principals, and assistant  
1 7 principals, shall be in writing and shall state the number of  
1 8 contract days, the annual compensation to be paid, and any  
1 9 other matters as may be mutually agreed upon. The contract  
1 10 may include employment for a term not exceeding the ensuing  
1 11 school year, except as otherwise authorized.  
1 12 b. Prior to entering into an initial contract with a  
1 13 teacher who holds a license other than an initial license  
1 14 issued by the board of educational examiners under chapter  
1 15 272, the school district shall require the teacher to submit a  
1 16 completed fingerprint packet. The school district shall  
1 17 submit the packet to the division of criminal investigation of  
1 18 the department of public safety which shall conduct a thorough  
1 19 background investigation of the teacher. The superintendent  
1 20 of a school district or the superintendent's designee shall  
1 21 have access to and shall review the sex offender registry  
1 22 information under section 692A.13, the central registry for  
1 23 child abuse information established under section 235A.14, and  
1 24 the central registry for dependent adult abuse information  
1 25 established under section 235B.5 for information regarding  
1 26 applicants for employment as a teacher. The school district  
1 27 may charge the teacher a fee for the background investigation,  
1 28 which shall not exceed the fee charged by the division of  
1 29 criminal investigation for conducting the background  
1 30 investigation.

1 31 c. The contract is invalid if the teacher is under  
1 32 contract with another board of directors to teach during the  
1 33 same time period until a release from the other contract is  
1 34 achieved. The contract shall be signed by the president of  
1 35 the board, or by the superintendent if the board has adopted a  
2 1 policy authorizing the superintendent to sign teaching  
2 2 contracts, when tendered, and after it is signed by the  
2 3 teacher, the contract shall be filed with the secretary of the  
2 4 board before the teacher enters into performance under the  
2 5 contract.

### EXPLANATION

2 7 This bill directs school districts to require teachers  
2 8 being considered for employment to submit a fingerprint  
2 9 packet, which shall be submitted to the division of criminal  
2 10 investigation of the department of public safety for a  
2 11 thorough background investigation prior to entering into an  
2 12 initial contract with the teacher. The school district may  
2 13 pass on to the teacher the fee charged by the division for the  
2 14 investigation.

2 15 The superintendent of a school district or the  
2 16 superintendent's designee shall have access to and shall  
2 17 review the sex offender registry information, the central  
2 18 registry for child abuse information, and the central registry  
2 19 for dependent adult abuse information for information  
2 20 regarding applicants for employment as a teacher.

2 21 Because the board of educational examiners is required to  
2 22 perform background investigations on all initial applicants  
2 23 for licensure, school districts are not required to submit  
2 24 teachers who hold an initial license to an investigation.  
2 25 LSB 1337YH 82  
2 26 kh:nh/es/88